

Nantucket Commission on Disability
Minutes
February 7, 2007

Present: Mickey Rowland, Dick Moran, Phil Gallagher, and Brenda McDonough
Absent: Linda Williams and Liz Winship

The meeting opened with the members reviewing November's minutes, which were unanimously approved.

Topics:

- The Commission members were briefed on the Town's new web site and our Commission wants to have a link on their site. Everyone received several sheets of information that could possibly be included in our link to the Town's web site. We briefly reviewed the information and it was suggested that the following information be included on our link to the Town's web site.
 1. Parking Permits- You do not have to be a year-round resident to apply for a permit
 2. Temporary Permits- Include the necessary information about obtaining a temporary permit
 3. Autopscot Taxi- Include the hours of operation, the accessible taxi has the same rates as a non-accessible taxi, and include Jon's St. Laurent's (the accessible taxi owner) web site address
 4. Our Island Ride- Hours of operation and a link to the NRTA's web site
 5. The members were asked to give the web site some thought as to what information each member would like included on our link to the Town's web site and to have their suggestions ready for our next meeting.
- The Commission members also received a **very rough draft** of the Guide For Visitors With Special Needs. The members were asked to review the guide and give some thought as to what information each member would like to see included in this guide and to have their suggestions ready for our next meeting. Phil did make one suggestion for the guide: He suggested that we include all the necessary information about obtaining a temporary parking permit.
- Phil stated that he believed any disabled passenger traveling by plane that the airport is responsible for their ground transportation. Brenda will look into this.
- Barbara Grey died and it was suggested that we send her family a bereavement card.
- Mickey brought up the subject of the Dreamland Theater. The front entrance to the Dreamland Theater as designed by BKA Architects is proposed to be at sidewalk

level thus eliminating the eight-inch concrete step. However, the architects are receiving resistance from the HDC because the concrete step is considered historic though it was constructed there sometime in the 1950's. Prior to this time, the building had a completely different façade. Mickey mentioned that Linda was a proponent for keeping the step and does not know the rest of the HDC's members' position on the concrete step. Mickey considers the step to be a huge barrier for people in wheelchairs and considering that this is a multi-million dollar renovation, the whole building should be completely accessible according to the AAB's regulations. The AAB wrote a letter to BKA Architects and stated the following: "The Board indicated it is unlikely that they would vote to grant a variance to Section 25.1 allowing the eight-inch step to remain in place given the scale of work to be done and the project spending." Our Commission members then received a memo that Mickey wrote to Dirk Roggeveen, Chairman of the HDC, stating that the COD is very much in favor of the plan, which eliminates the eight-inch step and allows sidewalk-level access to all who enter the front doors, and is adamantly opposed to any plan that does not allow wheelchair access through the front door. Phil then motioned to send the memo to Dirk, Dick second the motion, and so it was voted.

- Dick motioned to adjourn the meeting, Phil second the motion, and so we adjourned.

Brenda McDonough, Facilitator

Our Next Meeting will be on May 3, 2007